

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD ANNOUNCES COLORADO TO RECEIVE 46 PERCENT INCREASE IN FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING

*Colorado receives second-highest increase in highway funding
among all 50 states*

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), Chairman of the Senate Housing and Transportation Subcommittee, said that Colorado will receive a 46 percent increase in federal highway funding under legislation approved by the Senate Tuesday to re-authorize the Transportation Equity Act. The funding formula included in the bill would provide Colorado with more than half of a billion dollars in additional funding over the next four years for highway construction. The legislation also includes an increase of 164 percent in funding for mass transit projects in Colorado.

“This is a triumph for Colorado. Under the new formula, Colorado will receive the second-highest increase in highway funding of any state,” said Senator Allard, who was a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee when the legislation was drafted last year. “This is money that we desperately need to handle the burgeoning transportation requirements of our growing state. It will pave the way for economic growth at a crucial time in Colorado’s history.”

“The Senate formula translates into a 92 percent return on Coloradans’ federal highway taxes by 2009, up from the current 90 percent we are receiving now,” the Senator said. “The 46 percent increase comes on the heels of the 54 percent that I secured in the 1996 re-authorization of the transportation bill.”

“This funding legislation will allow the State of Colorado to determine where our federal highway dollars can best be spent,” Senator Allard said. “Our state and local governments will have more resources available to meet their transportation demands.”

The funding formula would provide Colorado with an additional \$150 million a year for four years on top of the current \$300 million a year, on average, the state receives now.

The Senator also was able to include a provision for High Impact Intersections, which will allow intersections that are rated as exceptionally hazardous to qualify for additional funding for improvements. Two such intersections exist in Colorado’s Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

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